

## MIDWEST DIGEST

### S.D. Marriage Rate Holds Steady

PIERRE (AP) — The marriage rate in South Dakota held steady in the most recent reporting period during a 30-year downward trend.

The Health Department's Vital Statistics Report shows 6,148 marriages in the state in 2008, or 8.1 marriages per 1,000 residents. That's unchanged from the 2007 rate.

The marriage rate has been going down since a high of 13 marriages per 1,000 residents in 1979.

The youngest bride and youngest groom in 2008 were age 16. The oldest bride was 80 and the oldest groom was 89.

### S.D. House Votes To Raise Court Surcharges

PIERRE (AP) — The House has voted to double many of the court automation surcharges that clerks charge plaintiffs when they file a lawsuit.

The fees help the state Unified Judicial System update its technology.

Charges for civil actions were doubled to \$40 from \$20. The fee for small claims actions was doubled to \$12 from \$6 for cases of less than \$4,000, and to \$16 from \$8 for cases of \$4,000 or more.

The House on Tuesday also more than doubled the court automation surcharges added to criminal cases.

### Certified Nurse Midwife Waiver Extended

PIERRE (AP) — A Senate committee has voted to add some permanency to a trial program allowing certified nurse midwives to attend home births in South Dakota.

State law had allowed only doctors to assist in those situations unless qualified midwives had collaborative agreements with doctors.

But lawmakers in 2008 passed a bill waiving the need for agreements for nurse midwives given approval by the Nursing Board and Board of Medical Examiners. The provision was set to expire in 2013.

The Health and Human Service committee on Wednesday voted to eliminate that sunset clause.

The bill now heads to the full Senate.

### Nebraska Tax Revenue Rebounds In January

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska tax revenue rebounded in January after a grim December, leading to hopes that tax receipts will begin to more closely track official projections.

A report from the state Department of Revenue released on Wednesday said net tax revenue for January was just 0.4 percent below official projections. The projections form the baseline of the state budget.

In December, net tax receipts were nearly 10 percent below projections.

Gov. Dave Heineman says it could be mid-June before officials truly know whether overall revenue projections are being met, because March, April and May are important revenue months for the state.

In November, lawmakers reduced the two-year budget by \$334 million.

### Bill Would Allow More Fireworks Sold In Neb.

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Fireworks fans could have more goodies to buy in Nebraska.

On Wednesday, people who sell fireworks asked lawmakers to advance two bills (LB880 and LB881) that would mainly loosen current restrictions.

The state Fire Marshal's Office also supported some of the provisions in the bill, including one that could increase the types of fireworks that could be sold in the state.

It would end the current requirement that the office test fireworks before they are sold and instead rely solely on federal testing. Some fireworks banned now — such as bottle rockets — would still be banned. Also, sparklers on gold or silver wires would be banned.

The bills would also allow fireworks to be sold during the three days leading up to New Year's Day.

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## S.D. Gets \$5.6M Grant To Help Train Rural EMTs

PIERRE (AP) — Emergency medical workers in some rural parts of the state will soon get to practice their life-saving techniques on high-tech mannequins thanks to a \$5.6 million grant from the trust of the late real estate baroness Leona Helmsley, Gov. Mike Rounds said Wednesday.

The three-year gift from the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust will be given to Avera Health and Sanford Health of Sioux Falls and Regional Health of Rapid City to purchase mobile training units for the eastern and western regions of the state, and to St. Mary's Healthcare Center in Pierre and Moberge Regional Hospital for the central region.

Each mobile unit will feature adult male, pregnant female, infant and pediatric "human patient simulators," said Gov. Mike Rounds.

"The patient simulators are wireless, high-fidelity mannequins that move breath, live and die realistically," Rounds said at a news conference.

Barb Buhler of the state Health Department said it will take about six months to get the mobile units out in the field because they need to be specially designed and tailored.

The mannequins can be programmed with certain symptoms and emergency responders are then challenged to assess the patient's condition and provide treatment.

Everything is recorded, so responders can later look at each intervention and whether it helped or hurt the patient, said Robin Gadd, St. Mary's vice president of patient care.

### S.D. LEGISLATURE

# Panel Kills Plans To Cut Pay, Travel

BY CHET BROKAW  
Associated Press Writer

PIERRE — Three measures that sought to trim state spending by cutting lawmakers' paychecks and reducing their out-of-state travel were rejected Wednesday by a South Dakota House committee after opponents said the cuts would do more harm than good.

Rep. Shantel Krebs, R-Renner, the sponsor of two bills that would have cut legislative pay and travel for two years, said many businesses have cut their employees' salaries to survive during the recession. The Legislature also is seeking to cut many programs to balance the state budget, she said.

"If we're going to make others feel the pain, I felt we as well should be part of that," Krebs told the State Affairs Committee.

But House Republican Leader Bob Faehn of Watertown, chairman of the committee, said South Dakota lawmakers need to attend national meetings to help influence federal policies. A cut in legislative pay would prevent many people from running for the Legislature because they could not afford to be away from their jobs during legislative sessions, he said.

"If you want a Legislature made up of a lot of wealthy people, this is a good first step," Faehn said of one bill. "Let's keep this a citizen's Legislature."

One of Krebs' bills, rejected 11-2 by the committee, would have cut legislators' salaries from \$6,000 to \$4,200 a year for the next two budget years, saving about \$380,000. Her second measure, defeated on an 8-4 vote, would have eliminated out-of-state travel for lawmakers for two years, which she said would save about \$400,000 over the two years. A legislative com-

mittee could have approved travel in special circumstances.

Rep. Eldon Nygaard, D-Vermillion, sponsored the third measure, which would have made a small cut in legislative pay and reduced the salaries for the highest paid state workers. The bill, rejected 9-4, would have made a 5 percent cut in the portion of a salary exceeding \$80,000, resulting in a \$1,000 pay cut for someone making \$100,000 a year.

Nygaard said his measure would have saved about \$900,000 in the next year. He said those making a lot of money could stand a small cut, particularly when many people across the state have lost their jobs and all their income.

Opponents of the bills noted that state employees likely will get no pay raise next year for the second straight year. Legislative salaries were last raised in 1999, which means inflation has cut the real value of those paychecks, they said.

The Legislature already has cut its budget substantially for out-of-state travel, said Sen. Jean Hunhoff, R-Yankton, head of the Executive Board that approves travel requests.

Former state lawmaker Ed Olson of Mitchell said some people have left the Legislature because the salary does not cover their expenses. Many lawmakers



Nygaard

in rural areas spent a lot to travel to meetings in districts that cover many counties, he said.

Rep. David Lust, R-Rapid City, said lawmakers are paid less than \$1 an hour when considering all the time they spend working on legislative issues.

Olson noted that he was one of the most frequent travelers when he was in the Legislature because he was on four committees established by national organizations, such as the National Conference of State Legislatures. South Dakota has been a leader in the national effort to collect sales tax on Internet sales because it has had officials on a national committee dealing with the issue, he said.

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### NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids will be received by the City Commission of the City of Yankton, South Dakota, at the office of the City Finance Officer of said City until 3:00 P.M., or may be hand delivered to the place of opening at 3:00 P.M. on the 11th day of March, 2010, at which time they will be publicly opened and read in the Second Floor Meeting Room located at 416 Walnut Street in Yankton, South Dakota. Disposition of said bids is expected to be held on the 22nd day of March, 2010 after 7:00 P.M., in the Chambers of said City Commissioners, City Hall, Yankton, South Dakota.

Bids will be received on the following:

Concrete Removal and Replacement at Miscellaneous Locations

Work will include small quantities of:

- Concrete Curb and Gutter
- Concrete Valley Gutter
- 6" Sidewalk
- 6" Approach Pavement
- 6" Concrete Pavement
- 6" Fillet Section
- 6" Valley Gutter
- Other Miscellaneous Items

Copies of the specifications may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Services, 416 Walnut Street, Yankton, South Dakota 57078 or by telephoning (605) 668-5251.

Payment shall be in cash based on 90% monthly payments for all completed work including the actual cost (exclusive of overhead and profit to the contractor and subcontractors) of materials suitably stored at the site.

The City of Yankton, South Dakota reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities therein to determine which is the best and lowest bid and to approve the bond.

Kevin Kuhl  
Public Services Director  
City of Yankton, South Dakota

## Neb. Governor Signs Off On Lethal Injection Protocol

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Gov. Dave Heineman approved a lethal-injection protocol for Nebraska on Wednesday, ending the death penalty's months-long limbo in the state and opening the gate to a new round of lawsuits.

There never was any doubt Heineman, a death-penalty supporter, would sign off on the protocol that replaces electrocution and he did so without publicizing his approval.

Last year, he supported Nebraska lawmakers when they directed the state Department of Corrections to craft a lethal-injection protocol to replace electrocution.

The direction from lawmakers followed a 2008 ruling from the state Supreme Court that said the chair amounted to unconstitutional cruel and unusual punishment. Nebraska had been the only state with electrocution as its sole means of execution and since the ruling, has technically been without a means of executing prisoners.

Nebraska is now in line with more than 30 other states that use a similar, three-drug cocktail — an anesthetic, a muscle paralyzer and a substance to stop the heart.

While the new protocol technically goes into effect Monday, it will be summer before the Department of Corrections is actually ready to use it. And experts say they don't expect an execution to take place for several years because of legal challenges.

Corrections Director Bob Houston said Wednesday that "hundreds of modifications" need to be made to corrections facilities and equipment before lethal injection can be used but that the department is on track to be able to carry out the protocol by summer.

Among the requirements spelled out in the five-page protocol is that two members of the lethal-injection team be trained to maintain an open IV line and have been trained as emergency medical technicians. After execution dates are set, members of the execution team will be required to train weekly.

Attorneys who oppose the death penalty have said they expect lawsuits will be filed attacking various components of the protocol, including training requirements they say are vague. There also could be legal challenges arguing the protocol violates a state law barring the use of poison to harm someone.

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 44 So far

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- 29 Harry of "L.A. Law"
- 30 One or more
- 31 Gun the motor
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- 33 Hastings, to Poirot
- 35 Improvise
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- 41 Recital sight
- 42 Map dots
- 43 Produce

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Yesterday's answer

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- 34 Rock cover
- 35 Manhunt letters
- 36 Conk out
- 37 Fall behind
- 39 Gettysburg loser
- 40 Speedy

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A X Y D L B A A X R is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-11 CRYPTOQUOTE

X R N H H R P X A Y F T Y P N F F W

Q P P T C O C G A Y P F A U P N Q T

F P C C B N B P Y X A Y V . — B P N Y F

D N O F P W  
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: A POET IS SOMEONE WHO STANDS OUTSIDE IN THE RAIN HOPING TO BE STRUCK BY LIGHTNING. — JAMES DICKEY

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